

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
MAY 1994**

**HNC REVISION: 2 JUNE 1997
TAG REVIEW DATE: 24 JUNE 1997**

1. SITE NAME: Camp Davis

SITE NUMBER: I04NC001700

LOCATION:

City: Holly Ridge
County: Pender/Onslow
State: North Carolina

PROJECT NUMBER: I04NC001702

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 3

TAG RAC: 4

2. POC's:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The former Camp Davis included approximately 46,682 acres of land located in Pender and Onslow Counties adjacent to the town of Holly Ridge. Various agencies and individuals presently own the land. A majority of the site is managed by the State of North Carolina as a wildlife and

wetland area. In addition to use as a wildlife and wetland area, the site is also used for forestry production and residential usage. The two largest landowners are the State of North Carolina and International Paper Company.

Climate is characterized by hot, humid summers with moderate breezes cooling the coast and cool winters with an occasional cold spell. The topography is flat to gently rolling with elevations ranging from 38 to 67 feet. The eastern portion of the area has varied relief, whereas the western and central portions are dominated by broad, flat areas which are poorly drained. Predominant land forms are narrow sand ridges, hardwood drainageways, pond pine pocosins, and mineral soil flats. Wooded forests of pine plantations and mature pine stands characterize the upland sites while creeks and tributaries drain inaccessible lowland hardwood areas and pocosins.

4. SITE HISTORY: The site was acquired for military purposes in 1941 at the request of the Secretary of War. Acquisition of land for Camp Davis took place from 1941 through 1943. A total of approximately 45,453 acres was acquired by lease from numerous individuals, corporations, and governmental agencies by the War Department for a World War II Army Air Corps training facility. In addition, 63.5 acres were acquired in fee, by Declaration of Taking from the Mary E. Howard Estate, and 22.25 acres were acquired under easements for a total of approximately 45,538 acres by lease, fee, and easement. An additional 1,143.55 acres were under maneuver permits to the War Department.

The base was used as a World War II Army Air Corps training camp and school, airfield, convalescent hospital, redistribution center, and antiaircraft and artillery ranges. Established as an Anti-Aircraft Training Center in April 1941, Camp Davis later became the site for a convalescent hospital and rehabilitation center. The Camp became home to various military units, mostly coast artillery anti-aircraft regiments, with thousands of recruits passing through for basic and anti-aircraft weaponry training. The Barrage Balloon Training Center was started here and stayed for one year before transfer elsewhere. The anti-aircraft training facility transferred to another base in September 1944.

On October 3, 1945, approximately 45,538 acres were transferred by the War Department to the Navy Department. The site was used by the Navy for their secret operation code-named "Operation Bumblebee", which involved a secret guided missile testing program. The Navy used only a portion of Camp Davis (that area which was formerly used by the Army Air Corps as the Coastal Artillery Anti-Aircraft Firing Range) for the testing of rocket motor propulsion systems.

In 1948, the Navy closed down operations. Camp Davis was declared surplus and was dismantled in the late 1940's for salvage and sale. There is no real estate information available on the disposal of Camp Davis by the Navy Department. At that time the Navy apparently gave up the leases on the land and it was returned to the original landowners.

In 1954, the U.S. Marine Corps took out a new lease for approximately 955 acres on the former Camp Davis airfields and surrounding land from International Paper Company. This land, which is still under lease to the Marine Corps, is known as "Camp Davis."

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA A

Size, Acres:	15,566
Former Use:	Anti-Aircraft Impact Area
Present Use:	Wildlife/Wetland Preservation
Probable End Use:	Wildlife/Wetland Preservation
Ordnance Presence:	Potential
Type:	75mm; 90mm

AREA B

Size, Acres:	1,330
Former Use:	Track Target Impact Area
Present Use:	Forestry Production
Probable End Use:	Forestry Production
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	.50 cal; 37mm; 40mm

AREA C

Size, Acres:	3
Former Use:	Grenade Range
Present Use:	Forestry Production
Probable End Use:	Forestry Production
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Grenade, Fragmentation

AREA D

Size, Acres:	40
Former Use:	Rifle and Pistol Range
Present Use:	Undeveloped
Probable End Use:	Undeveloped
Ordnance Presence:	Potential

Type: No items specified in ASR

AREA E

Size, Acres: 8
Former Use: AA Coastal Gunnery Range Emplacement
Present Use: Residential
Probable End Use: Residential
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: Not Applicable

AREA F

Size, Acres: 30,000
Former Use: AA Coastal Gunnery Range Impact Area
Present Use: Fishing; Swimming; Boating
Probable End Use: Fishing; Swimming; Boating
Ordnance Presence: Potential (Under water-Not eligible)
Type: Artillery Ordnance(No records found indicating specific rounds used)

AREA G

Size, Acres: 29,735
Former Use: Remaining Lands
Present Use: State Game Lands/Residential/USMC
Probable End Use: State Game Lands/Residential/USMC
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: Not Applicable

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report for the former Camp Davis was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in May 1994.

7. STRATEGY: Areas A, B, C and D: EE/CA (RAC4)
Areas E, F and G: NOFA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The CEHNC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) recommended an EE/CA for areas A, B, C and D, and NOFA for areas E, F and G. Updated RAC Forms which supersede all others are attached. Strategies are justified below for each area.

Area A: Described as the Anti-Aircraft Impact Area with a potential for OE presence, Area A is a pocosin swamp consisting of swamp with dense, impenetrable vegetation of brush and trees. The area is used as a Wildlife and Wetland Preservation area by the State of North Carolina. The site has never been totally surveyed because of the nature of the land. The Site Survey inspection of this area consisted of a walk along the firing line

adjoining the area because it was not possible to enter the area. No OE has been observed in the area. Document I-4, para 3A, last paragraph, in the ASR Findings, states that artillery was set up along a road and fired at targets pulled behind planes. This area was evidently a drop zone for the OE fired. The ASR Findings do not address the type (practice or high explosive) of ammunition that was used. Conduct of an EE/CA for this area of the site would be difficult to impossible because of its inaccessibility. This area will continue to be used as a Wildlife and Wetland Preserve for the indefinite future.

Area B: This area, the Track Target Impact Area, consisted of a vehicle on railroad tracks behind berms which carried a target elevated above the berms so that gunners could fire at the target(See Appendix K, Findings). There is confirmed evidence of .50 cal., 37mm, and 40mm being fired at this range. One of the ASR site visitors stated that base fuze rounds were recovered and he assumed that high explosive was used in the swamp areas.

Area C: Grenade Range. The site survey team found fragments of HE grenades as well as grenade fuzes at the site.

Area D: Nothing has been found in this area, The Rifle and Pistol Range. The ASR indicates that only spent bullets and cartridge cases can be expected to be found here. Nevertheless, the TAG decided to include this 40 acre area as one of those with a strategy of EE/CA based on Area D proximity to other EE/CA areas and the possibility that training occurred here which included other than small arms.

Area E: The AA Coastal Gunnery Range Emplacement Area, as this area was called, is that acreage by the ocean where the guns were placed to fire in the direction of the ocean. No OE has been found in this area.

Area F: Designated the Coastal Gunnery Range Impact Area, Area F is that area east of Area E in the Atlantic Ocean where there was a potential for OE. No OE was found on the land or washed up on the beaches. Any OE would be on the ocean bed. NOFA for this area is based on policy regarding underwater areas.

Area G: The Remaining Land, which includes those lands other than those already identified, is NOFA, based on no findings of OE or OE usage. The active Marine Corps "Camp Davis" is not eligible for the FUDS Program.

Area Leased by the Marine Corps: The INPR states that the U.S. Marine Corps has leased approximately 955 acres of the site,

known as "Camp Davis", from 1954 to the present day, that includes the former Camp Davis airfields and surrounding lands from International Paper Company. The INPR map shows that this area is within Area G.

Natural Resources: Known State and Federally-listed species occur within the site area and are listed in para 3f and Table 3-2 on pages 6-7 of the ASR Findings. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Historical Resources: The former Camp Davis has been placed on the National Registry of Historical Places. Any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only